Foreign tourists inflow to India

276. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the year 1985-86 and till June, 1986;

(b) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned during the year 1985-86 on this account;

(c) what steps are being taken to boost foreign tourists inflow into the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to promote *domestic tourism*?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) The number of foreign tourists, excluding nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who visited India during 1985-86 and in the first 3 months of 1986-87 are as given below:

	Number
1985-86 . . .	875,575
1986-87 (up to June) . .	185,375

(b) The latest provisional estimate of tourism earnings available from the Reserve Bank of India is for the year 1984-85 and the estimate is Rs. 1300 crores.

(c) The steps initiated to boost foreign tourists inflow into the country include reorientation of publicity campaigns giving emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping-up of public relations with overseas media agencies, tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, development of infrastructural facilities and improvement of transport systems including airlines capacity and permitting tourist charters.

(d) The steps being taken to promote domestic tourism in the country include construction of low-priced accommodations of Yatri Niwases and Yatrikas in all the States/U.Ts., promotion of packages specially for the youths and provision of wayside facilities along important roads. Special publicity campaigns are also undertaken to create awareness among the people about domestic tourism.

Economic sanctions against South Africa

277. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the declaration of emergency by South Africa in support of its policy on apartheid; and

(b) what efforts are being made by the Government of India to have a consensus among the commonwealth countries including Britain to enforce economic and political sanctions against the Government of South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government's policy in regard to apartheid and the repressive actions of the regime in South Africa is well-known.

(b) As envisaged under the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa, adopted at Nassau in October 1985, a review of progress in the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Accord will be carried out at a Mini Summit of Seven Commonwealth countries scheduled in London from 3 to 5 August, 1986. The Mini Summit will provide an opportunity to seek a Commonwealth Consensus, including Britain, on the question of sanctions against South Africa.

Seizure of Heroin, Hashish, etc.

278. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total seizure of illegal drugs like heroin and hashish so far in the country during the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has become a major transit centre of drug trafficking; and

(c) if so, what measures are being contemplated by Government to curb trafficking in illegal drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Details regarding seizures of various drugs in the country during 1986 (reports received upto 16-7-1986) are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of drug	Quantity seized (provisional)
		Kg.
1.	Heroin	1645
2	Hashish.	10605 + 2 (hashish oil)
3.	Opium	2307
4.	Ganja	21591
5.	Morphine	45
6.	Cocaine	12
7.	Mandrax tablets	203

NOTE.—Figures are rounded off to the nearest kilograme.

(b and (c) India has for sometime past, been increasingly facing the problem of transit trafficking in drugs.

The field formations remain vigilant to check the smuggling of drugs. In addition to appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned and also with the drug law enforcement agencies of U.S.A., U.K., etc. is maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. A new organisation under the name of 'Narcotics Control Bureau' has been set up for the purpose of effectively co-ordinating the action against illicit traffic in drugs. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

News Item "India Hires US Firm for Image Buildings"

279. SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'India, hires US firm for image building' which appeared in the 'Deccan Herald' of the 4th June, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the terms and conditions of the said deal;

(c) what is the quantum of foreign exchange involved in the said deal; and

(d) what are the names of other countries with whom such arrangements have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The services of a public relations firm M|s. Howard J. Rubenstein Associates Inc. New York have been engaged by the Embassy of India, Washington since November 1985, for a period of one year. The total cost of $ 2,50,000 includes a Retainer fee of $ 1,50,000. The aim is to use the interest generated by the Festival of India to project developments in modern India in the USA.

(d) Such arrangements have not been made in any other country.

Safety in Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation

280. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report regarding lack of safety measures in the Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation mines which appeared in the Financial Express of the 2nd June, 1986;